

**MINUTES  
FORT MYERS BEACH  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
WORK SESSION**

Town Hall - Council Chambers  
2523 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Friday, September 5, 2014**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Butcher. Members present: Bruce Butcher, Al Durrett, John Kakatsch, Alice Mack, and Tony Scopel.

Excused: Tom Myers, Jim Wray and Council Liaison Rexann Hosafros.

Town Liaison: Tildon Copeland.

Town Staff: Scott Baker and Chelsea O'Riley

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. LIGHTNING WARNING SYSTEM - Review and Discuss Presentation for Council Agenda**

Ms. O'Riley reviewed slides in the power point presentation. Discussion was held concerning Lee County schools and parks, funding, areas to cover, and current warnings. Chair Butcher suggested adding technology, value, wide-spread use, Lee County Government, US Government, software application, national reach, and weather history to bullet points.

Ms. O'Riley discussed details of how the system works and played a recording of the alarm. Mr. Baker pointed out the system would run 24/7, 365 days a year. Discussion was held on the timing of the alarm, location and number of units, and noise. Mr. Baker revealed the total cost to purchase, install, and maintain the system.

Mr. Kakatsch questioned funding opportunities. Mr. Baker cited possible options. Discussion was held concerning locations and cost. Chair Butcher remarked he would choose to spend the money on properly lighted crosswalks instead of a lightning warning system. Mr. Scopel suggested educating the public about lightning with signage.

Mr. Durrett recommended presenting Council with an alternate plan to consider, such as working with the private sector.

Mr. Scopel pointed out liability issues. Discussion ensued concerning power outages, variable costs, and permitting.

Mr. Kakatsch suggested recommending full beach coverage to Council and identify funding options.

H. Michael Mogil, Certified Consulting Meteorologist from Naples, introduced himself and his experience in the field. He explained why he preferred spending funds on the crosswalks. Mr. Mogil stated there were 10 lightning fatalities in Lee County since 1950. He suggested expanding education. Mr. Mogil expressed his opinion on the different detection systems.

Ms. O'Riley remarked that consideration needed to be given to those who are blind and deaf. Mr. Baker suggested listing free apps affiliated with lightning detection systems in the brochure. Ms. O'Riley stated she would add the information to the Town website.

Chair Butcher remarked that the presentation should state facts and not make a recommendation. The committee unanimously agreed.

Ms. O'Riley shared a draft of the Eliminating Left Turns presentation. Chair Butcher reviewed left turn issues on North Estero and Crescent Street.

Chair Butcher stated that crosswalk lighting should be addressed at the next joint session with Council. Mr. Durrett suggested creating a taxing district so the Town could provide lighting instead of FP&L. Mr. Baker offered to provide a breakdown of the costs.

Chair Butcher suggested adding traffic circles at Lenell, Bay Beach, Albatross, and one downtown to the presentation. Mr. Durrett wondered if there was enough space for a traffic circle at Lenell.

Mr. Baker indicated funds were added to the budget for a law enforcement officer at Lenell.

Ms. O'Riley stated that she would email the banner presentation to committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **IV. EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN - Review - Condense EOP for Council Approval**

On hold.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Kakatsch moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Scopel.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Adopted 10/8/2014 with/without changes. Motion by Tom Myers  
(DATE)

Vote: 4-0 Signature: [Signatures]

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